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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,925	10/21/2003	John Duncan Pryor	033834-005	6912

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EXAMINER

LAUX, JESSICA L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/690,925	Applicant(s) PRYOR, JOHN DUNCAN	
	Examiner Jessica Laux	Art Unit 3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-13 and 23-34, drawn to a cross tie bracket, classified in class 248.
- II. Claim 14-22, drawn to a method of forming a cross tie bracket, classified in class 29.
- III. Claims 35-48, drawn to a drill guide, classified in class 52, subclass 269.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the cross tie bracket could be made by injection molding.

Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as being used to attach a rod to a building structural element where the structural element has predrilled holes for aligning the cross tie bracket. And therefore does not

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require the use of a drill guide. The drill guide has separate utility such as for aligning a drill for drilling a steel beam. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions II and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are unrelated as a process of making a cross tie bracket is not functionally or operationally related to a drill guide.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I, figures 1-8

Species II, figures 14-19

Species III, figures 20-25

Species IV, figures 26-30

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim

is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Hamerick on December 02, 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, Species I, claims 1-13. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 14-48 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Upon further examination of this application it has been found that Figures 6-8 do not pertain to species 1 and will not be considered in the examination. This does not affect the elected claims and therefore claims 1-13 will be examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Syak et al. (3182762).

In regards to claim 1; Syak et al. teaches a structure having a cylindrical body that is attached to a base (element 10) that is attached to a structure wherein the body and base secure a post to the structure (Figures 1 and 3; Col. 2, lines 17-18 and 28-30).

In regards to claims 2 and 3: The structure as taught by Syak et al. in claim 1 above also has a pair of end plates (element 11 and 12) on either side of the tubular body that are secured to the base (Figure 1,2, and 3; Col. 2, lines 19-20). The end plates have apertures that are of a size to have a metal tube inserted through (Figure 1).

In regards to claims 4 and 5: The structure as taught by Syak et al. in claim 1 above wherein the tubular body has an inside diameter that is larger than the outside diameter of a metal rod and the inner surface of the tubular body is in contact with a rod inserted through the body (Figure 1; Col. 2, lines 28-30).

In regards to claim 11: The structure as taught by Syak in claim 1 above has end flanges (element 11 and 12) disposed on opposite ends of a tubular body that secure it to the base (Figures 1 and 3; Col. 2, lines 19-25).

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Claims 1,6, 7, 9, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moore (1547672).

In regards to claim 1: Moore teaches a structure having a cylindrical body (element 5) sized to receive a rod and a base (element 7) attached to the body and a structural element (Figure 4 and 5).

In regards to claim 6: The structure as taught by Moore in claim 1 above further having mounting apertures (element 10) in the base for attaching the base to the structure (Figure 5 element 10).

In regards to claim 7: The structure as taught by Moore in claim 6 above where the mounting apertures are used with screws or nails (Col. 1, lines 51-53).

In regards to claim 9 and 10: The structure as taught by Moore in claim 1 above having a supporting web (element 6) that attaches the cylindrical body to the base a distance above the base (Figure 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Syak et al. (5145132) in view of Ashton et al. (6545678). Syak et al. teaches a structure as in claim 1 above. Syak et al. does not teach a base having a drill guide aperture or to be used as a drill guide.

In regards claims 8 and 13: Ashton et al. teaches a structural load bearing device having bolt holes used as templates for drilling holes (Col. 5, lines 4-6). It is obvious that a metal plate with holes to be used as a drill guide can be used for drilling holes in another bracket.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jessica Laux whose telephone number is 571-272-8228. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm (est).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on 571-272-6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JL
12/14/2005


Naoko Slack
Primary Examiner